GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:907
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
MITE INFESTATION
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of strong chemicals to combat mite infestation in coconut plantations is causing damage to the accompanying plantation crops like pepper, arecanut, coffee etc.;

(b) whether the ICAR or other concerned research bodies have studied the whole problem and the best ways to use pesticides without causing damage to the agronomy; and

(c) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government to involve research institutions to attend to the problem of damage to coconut plantations by worngful use of pesticides like Dycophol, etc.? A N S W E R

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)
(a) Chemicals, like monocrotophos, triazophos, and dicofol are effective against coconut mites. Though dicofol is effective, presence of 0.1% DDT(an organochlorine compound) in dicofol may lead to accumulation of DDT in the ecosystem.Hence, dicofol is recommended only in continuous plantations and its use is discouraged in places where mixed cropping is followed.
(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Kerala Agricultural University have conducted residual analysis of the chemicals used in management of mites. A safe waiting period of 45 days is recommended to be follwoed after application of pesticides to harvest the nuts.
(c) As an alternative to chemical pesticides Central Plantation Crops Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities have recommended spraying of eco friendly plant products like neem formulations containing 0.1% Azadirachtin, Wettable sulfur, an eco friendly acaricide, has also been recommended.
On biological control of coconut mites an entomofungal pathogen, Hirsutella thompsonii has been isolated from mite colonies and is being evaluated for its pathogenicity.
ICAR has sanctioned a project under National Agricultural Technology Programme to be implemented by five agencies at an outlay of 145 lakhs to intensify research on eriophyid mite with special emphasis on eco friendly control measure.
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